FIAE Chapter 8: Why Do We Grade and What About Effort, Attendance, and Behavior?

Nick Hart

Abstract/Reflection

Abstract: This chapter is all about why we grade and hoe to take effort, participation, attendance and behavior into effect. The first topic is why do teachers use grades. Some teachers say that they grade because it documents student and teacher progress and others grade to punish or motivate students. The author quickly notes the most effective reasons for grading which would be using them to provide information and have meaning to teachers, instructional design and students/parents. Participation was next discussed in this chapter. It is interesting to take into account for because some classes value participation as a lot of the grade and other classes do not. An example of a class that does would be a band class. Some ideas are to give feedback on student participation but not include it as part of the grade. However, some students do not have adequate living situations so participation in school and homework is difficult for them. With this in mind it is worth noting that some teachers bend the rules for students but “…we’re human.” (Page 106). Grading effort and behavior is a difficult task. This is because some student all out effort could just be another student’s worst effort. With this in mind some teachers believe that effort does need to be integrated into a final grade to show students that hard work and effort go into earning good grades. If we can include effort as part of a must then we can teach self-discipline and hard work in many different ways.

Reflection: I think that chapter was informative and brought back a lot of memories for me. The section about using participation as part of a grade reminded me of my high school band classes. I always loved those classes because participation was all that mattered and it was just understood that each student would be accountable for learning their music. I think that if classes could be more like that it would create a much better atmosphere to learn in. I have had a few math classes that were treated similar to his and I found them much easier to learn in and do well. The classes would just have a test or two and that was it. The learning and work was done all under the students own power, and being in that situation made it not a hassle to have to pick up the book and read. I think participation should affect a grade but I do agree that it is a hard aspect to evaluate for a student.